

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13 and 24-26 are canceled.

Support for each amended Claim is found in the correspondingly numbered original Claim.

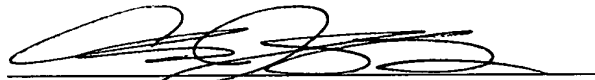
Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1-12 and 14-23 will be active.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

An action on the merits and allowance of the Claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon



Charles J. Andres, Jr., Ph.D.  
Registration No. 57,537

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

NFO/CJA/law